

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

March 2, 2006

(Not Approved)

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Brad Simpkins, Carl Roediger, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, John Hogle, Peter Russell, Joseph Butts, J. William Degnan.

Members Absent: Karen Schlitzer, Earl Sweeney, Michael Williams, David Duquette, George Sykes, Richard Mason.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Steve Carrier at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Item 2. Moment of Silence. Vice Chair Carrier requested that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for Chair Duquette's brother who passed away recently and for the three victims of the recent fire in Tilton. A card was passed around for Chair Duquette.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. February 2, 2006. Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the Minutes of the February 2, 2006 Commission Meeting as printed and distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

III. VICE CHAIR'S REMARKS

Vice Chair Carrier reported on the recent fire in Tilton. Three people died, and one person was rescued. One of the victims, Kurt Kaltenborn, was trying to help the other two victims out of the house. He had already helped the survivor out. Vice Chair Carrier noted that the end of this story was probably established at the time of the 9-1-1 call.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chief Prentiss gave her report for Emergency Medical Services.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Degnan gave his report for the Fire Marshal's Office. He also distributed copies of the "2005 State Fire Marshal's Office/Division of Fire Safety Year End Summary."

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave the following report:

- a. The Visiting Committee for NFPA 1051, Wildland Firefighter 1, met this past month to look back at the first year of the program. Several minor issues were brought up and are being resolved. Also, Forests and Lands is purchasing additional equipment for use by the Fire Academy to enhance the practical portion of the training. The visiting committee will be meeting again in 2 weeks to prepare for the Train-the-Trainer, which is scheduled for March 22nd at the Academy. Two more T-T-T's will be scheduled on weekends within the next six weeks.
- b. The new Warden's manual has been printed and is being distributed, along with CD's containing additional reference information. The new fire plans are completed and will be distributed soon. New fire permits should be back from the printers soon.
- c. Our weather station in Lancaster has been equipped with hardware and software that will enable us to download the weather electronically in real-time via a satellite link. This weather station will be part of the GOES (geostationary operational environmental satellite) national weather system that the federal government uses to determine fire danger on a nationwide scale. We will be installing two additional GOES satellite weather stations in the spring.
- d. Within the next month we are sending 2 forest rangers to New Jersey for a week-long course in wildland fire cause and origin investigation. This is a NWCG course that will certify them nationally as wildland fire

investigators. Another Ranger will be attending a course in Bar Harbor, Maine to become trained as a Strike Team Leader.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Vice Chair Carrier reported that the Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

(a) **Driver/Operator:**

- (1) Pumps:
Class scheduled in Franklin in March and April.
- (2) Aerial Apparatus:
The visiting committee has met recently and is looking at the IFSTA curriculum to supplement Dave Duquette's program that will then be updated.
- (3) All Vehicle:
We are currently looking for places to hold the practical portion, as this is becoming difficult to offer because of the lack of space to hold the driver practical.

(b) **Hazardous Materials:**

- (1) Operations:
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
- (2) Technician:
Class scheduled in Gorham for February and March.
- (3) The Decontamination program is being reviewed at this time and we are looking at the Vermont program. This will be presented possibly in April.

Chief Rosolen reported that Decontamination is still in the Operations and the Technician programs; however, some fire departments want a special Decon program. He stated that Nashua Firefighter Joe Freire wrote the Decon program for Vermont, and that is the one we would like to have approved.

(c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**

Closed for the season.

(d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**

- (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
Inspector I classes are scheduled for NHFA weekends in February, and in Newington for March. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, and the last two days will cover Citations.
- (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator
committee is very close in finishing their curriculum and are estimating May to come before the Commission's curriculum committee.

Chief Rosolen stated that the Fire Investigator Committee was going to meet today, but they were busy in another part of the State.

- (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

(e) **Rescue Series:**

- (1) Structural Collapse:
No pilots scheduled as yet. It was learned that Rope, Trench, Confined Space, and Vehicle/Machinery Extrication are necessary to have before Structural Collapse can be offered according to the standard.
- (2) Confined Space:
A confined space trailer is in the process of being purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire at this time. A confined space class will be scheduled for Nashua this winter/spring.
- (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting. We may be sending visiting committee members out to CMC for training and come back to do TtT's.
Still working on getting the CMC TtT.
- (4) Trench Rescue
The visiting committee will begin Trench Rescue programs to meet the standard.
- (5) Water Rescue/Ice
Four instructors will be attending a 3-day TtT on February 17-19 to return to present the program for review.

Chief Phillips noted that we sent four instructors to a Water/Ice Rescue course. He asked if we have their comments. Chief Rosolen replied that we don't have them yet.

(f) **NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:**

Train-the-Trainers are successful thus far with over 250 instructors attending both at the Academy and in the field from Littleton to Hollis. These programs are doing well.

(g) **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:**

A spring class is scheduled here in March and April.

(h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**

The new curriculum for Instructor I will be presented today.
An Instructor III class has just come to completion at the Elliot Hospital.

Chief Rosolen reported that the Commission's Curriculum Committee met this morning before the Commission meeting. They would like to update the Instructor curriculum we presently have in order to meet the 1041 Standard. He explained that the old 16-hour program that Fire Officer candidates could take no longer meets the Standard. The Committee is adding eight hours into the 40-hour Fire Instructor I-II-III, which is "Lesson Planning" in the Fire Instructor I section. We will maintain the Fire Instructor II-III bridge class. Vice Chair Carrier stated that he and Commissioners Burbank and Roediger came to an agreement on the Fire Instructor I.

(i) **NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:**

Doing well at this point..

(j) **C2F2**

An April class is scheduled as well as for recruit school in June.

(k) **ICS/NIMS**

The newly updated ICS NFA program is 40 minutes longer than the existing program. This program appears to have a much better slide program; a new unit, Unit 7 titled ICS/NIMS competencies has an activity and covers filling out ICS forms. This is an area as well as Unit 6 Scenarios where some time can be adjusted so as to keep the program at 16 hours.

Chief Rosolen reported that Captain Bob Pragoff and Program Coordinator Dave Jones compared the old ICS program to the new one. As there are lots of forms to learn about in the new program, the 40 minutes are built in the NFA curriculum. We will adjust to maintain the 16 hours.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #99. The Director's Report #99 for March 2, 2006 was as follows:

1) **CFOD COMMISSION MEETING**

I am just completing my first three-year term as a Commissioner for the Chief Fire Officer Designation, and expect that I will be serving one more. Unfortunately this meeting is creating my second absence from a NHFSTC meeting in ten years! I hope this is the last. Usually I leave for warmer climates when the weather here is warming and where I am heading is cooler! I lucked out this time.

2) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT

FY2005: We stay at the fifty award mark with just over \$4.5-million coming to New Hampshire entities this year...so the last month's spreadsheet is still accurate. I am confident we will see a few more awards before this session is complete.

FY2006: Bob Waters, Department of Homeland Security, conducted seven workshops for the ensuing year's grant process. We presented to over 150 workshop participants, a record for us this year. I thank Chief Phillips for handling the one I could not attend. Congressman Bradley sponsored the last one on February 24; we provided all the handout materials.

3) HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

The Division has been awarded nearly \$250,000 for homeland security training equipment and protective clothing. This grant is allowing us to purchase a realistic and hands-on training trailer for confined rescue type training. In addition we will be purchasing a large quantity of protective equipment to assure all students and instructors have adequate protection.

Chief Phillips reported that this grant will allow us to purchase 60 sets of protective clothing, including helmets, gloves, and hoods. We will also be purchasing two imaging cameras.

4) FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL...A REALITY

The New Hampshire State Firemen's Association and the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chaplains are making the memorial, discussed for years, a reality. It will be located on the west side of the fire station, into the woods. A plot plan will be passed around to look at. Many memorials have the eternal flame, monument, and flag poles all in one small area, but ours will be different! As you walk into the memorial area, the eternal flame in a granite bowl will be on the left; a short distance later, the flag poles will be on the left; then in the middle will be the memorial bell surrounded by granite with the line of duty deaths etched in the granite. I am very impressed and kudos to Hooksett Captain Gary Lambert...the Chair for this project. A mass construction will be held the 26th & 27th of August. The dedication is slated for September 10...more to follow!

5) UPDATES

Several items are being finalized:

- ❖ The Class A burn trailer is being fixed; after long use it requires maintenance: burn panels replaced, window/door repairs, etc. This has been a popular prop.

- ❖ The LP Gas trailer is having final touches put on it to assure it is ready for use this summer. A long time coming, but it has to be safe and code compliant from the beginning, and the gas industry has helped immensely along the way.

Chief Rosolen reported that Instructor Troy Ruggles, our LP Gas expert, will be here to work on this project with Captain Harry McGovern.

- ❖ The addition to the fire station is coming along...construction should be this summer.

Chief Phillips reported that the contract has been finalized. The first construction meeting is scheduled shortly.

6) NOVEMBER IS NOT THAT FAR AWAY!

It is not too early to be thinking about Academy Award and Fire Service Award of Excellence recipients. The deadline is July 1 to the Committee...please do your part and nominate someone you feel is deserving!

7) EOC BUILDING

As you can see, the building for the State's emergency operations center is moving along nicely. The date of August is still when it is slated for completion. It will house the Division of Emergency Services (Emergency Management and E-911), State Police Communications, Fire Marshal's Office, and DOT Communications.

Chief Phillips reported that August 28, 2006 is the completion date.

Well I hope you all have a great month of March. Remember the April meeting will be the 13th, starting with lunch at noon and the meeting to follow. We will then have displays of the National Guard Civil Support Team and Emergency Management's communications vehicles at 2:30 PM.

Other issues discussed:

8) NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

Vice Chair Carrier announced that the NH Association of Fire Chiefs will be meeting here on April 13. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the Commission meeting. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME.**

9) RULES 700—HIRING. Chief Rosolen stated that Director Mason wanted the Commission members to be asked the following

question: If a person works part-time for three different fire departments at a total salary of \$21,000 in one year, has passed the physical ability test, and is Firefighter II certified, is that person eligible for a lateral transfer to a full-time department? Chief Rosolen said this is about a particular firefighter who has been working this way right along. A full-time department, not one of the three departments he currently works for, has asked him to transfer to a full-time position with them.

Commissioner Burbank noted that no one has appointed him to a full-time position yet, therefore the transfer rule does not apply. A discussion was held on this item.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Butts, that the hiring transfer rules does not apply in this particular case. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Carrier said that he will inform Director Mason to deny this request and also talk with Commissioner Schlitzer about the decision.

- 10) Lapse in Transfer Time. Chief Rosolen said that another issue to be discussed is the lapse in transfer time between two full-time positions. The person: (a) could go from one department to the second one the next day, (b) could take two weeks' vacation between the two positions, or could have more than two weeks between the two positions.

Commissioner Roediger said that we have to give someone the same types of protection as we give those who are laid off, otherwise who would go. There should be a grace period.

Commissioner Burbank asked why we would not have one year for everyone. He believes the police allow two years, as someone is not going to lose much knowledge in that time.

Vice Chair Carrier asked why the lateral transfer isn't in line with the CPAT test period, which is 26 months.

Commissioner Murdough explained that "continual" is any part of one month plus any part of the next month.

After a short discussion, everyone agreed that this issue needs to be discussed with Commissioner Schlitzer.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Air Bottles. Commissioner Russell said that some fire departments are reporting excessive wear and tear on their air bottles that students bring for training. Students are being dragged on the ground with their air packs on causing the exterior to wear off. He asked, since the equipment is not actually being use, can we use either old or out-dated bottles.

Director Degnan said that this is not unique to New Hampshire. He reported that some fire departments use old five-inch hose pieces to simulate the bottles.

Chief Rosolen said that this is a valid point.

Item 2. I-93 Project. Commissioner Murdough report that a report on the I-93 project should be out in May or June. It effects 23 communities between Salem and Concord. A trained work force and affordable housing for them are issues. Commissioner Murdough will keep us up to date.

Item 3. Firefighters' Memorial. Commissioner Burbank stated that the Firefighters' Memorial is an exciting project. He said that Gary Lambert and his group should get tons of accolades. The group also wants to get information from Instructor Ray Chandler as to how the bell was obtained; this will then become part of the history of the Memorial.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. School Projects. Commissioner Murdough reported that 34 major school projects will be voted on this month. Most of them are renovations and additions.

Item 2. Fire Instructor I Curriculum. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Murdough, to accept the Fire Instructor I program by adding the Lesson Planning module, and to put the program in place. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3. Decontamination Curriculum. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Butts, to accept the Vermont Decontamination program as a replacement and updating of our current Decontamination program. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4. ICS Curriculum. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Butts, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to accept the new ICS curriculum. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Firefighters' Memorial Brick. Vice Chair Carrier suggested that the Commission members chip in for a brick with "NH Fire Standards & Training Commission – 2006" printed on it. He will look into that and advise everyone of the amount needed before the April Commission meeting.

Commissioner Burbank reported that Pittsburg has 50 people coming down to help. They will be setting up an ICS and jobs will be assigned.

Chief Phillips reported that the site preparation will be done before the August weekend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Roediger, to adjourn at 11.38 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 03/02/06
2. Minutes of Meeting – 01/05/06 – Approved 02/02/06
3. Curriculum Status Report 03/02/06
4. Minutes of Meeting – 02/02/06 – Not Approved
5. Director's Report #99—March 2, 2006
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/05 to 03/01/06
7. NH State Fireman's Assn. Fallen Firefighter Memorial Order Form
8. 2005 State Fire Marshal's Office/Division of Fire Safety Year End Summary